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and he has avoided the pitfall of so many writers of law books in these days of hastily composed books, — the mere compilation of the head notes of cases to serve as a text. In all places, however, the text is not easy reading, due in part to the strain on the reader from the constant use by the author of the periodic form of sentence.

Mr. Abbott also promises, "An exhaustive examination and citation of the authorities has been made, and an index has been prepared unusually full and complete." It is impossible at this time to state absolutely that the promise of an exhaustive examination and citation of authorities has been fulfilled. Only two volumes of the three have been issued, and there is no table of reference to the cases cited, in either of the volumes. It should be said, however, that from a reading of the text and the notes it would seem that a careful collection of authorities has been made. In this connection it seems worth while to call attention to the excellent plan, adopted in recent years by some publishers, of putting in each volume of a multi-volume treatise a table of the cases cited in that volume, and also an analytic index of the subject matter. Such tables and indices certainly add to the value of a book for ready reference.

The citations themselves seem to be arranged alphabetically by jurisdictions, and chronologically within each jurisdiction. The chronological order within the jurisdictions is consistently maintained, but there is an occasional lapse from the alphabetical arrangement. It may also be questioned if the form of citation, 86 U. S. (19 Wall.), is better than the more usual citation to Wallace first.

So much of the value of a text-book to the practicing lawyer depends on a good index, rendering the text easily accessible, that if Mr. Abbott really gives us an "index unusually full and complete" as he leads us to hope, his book will be in great demand. For this we must wait until the third volume is published.

The topics of the liability of public corporations for negligence, and of actions by and against public corporations, together with a chapter to be entitled "Some Public Duties," have been left for the third volume. S. H. E. F.

THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE LAW OF CORPORATIONS (being the Yorke Prize Essay for the year 1902). By C. T. Carr. Cambridge: At the University Press. 1905. pp. xiii, 211. 8vo.

Following a suggestion of Professor Maitland, of an English Encyclopedia of Group-life, a work which should range over the field occupied by the various forms of English fellowship and association, the writer of this essay has attempted to deal "with one single form of group-life, namely, the class of bodies which, in the strict legal sense, are 'corporations.' " The general object of the book, as the author states, is "to show the nature and attributes of a corporation, the steps by which it reached its present legal form and importance, and the manner in which it has from time to time been treated by the state. The later chapters contain the more ambitious effort of analyzing the theory of corporations."

Starting out to fulfill such a suggestion as that of Professor Maitland, it naturally follows that the work, well executed, as it undoubtedly is, should be interesting and suggestive to the student of the history of English law, and of the development of its theories. But it should be noted that chapters entitled "Anthropomorphism," "Concession," "Registration," "Symbolism," "Realism," and some others, though suggestive to the student, will not attract many readers outside that class. In justice to the author, however, it should be remembered that this book is not published "to sell"; but, like many other books, more often, we may regret to find, written by Englishmen rather than Americans, it was done because the author had found something that was worth saying, and has been willing to put time and effort into it, for the sake of the few who will understand and be aided.

In an interesting chapter on the "corporation sole," Mr. Carr points out that this invention, "so proudly described by Blackstone, had turned out a failure. . . . It is the supreme test of the true corporation that its abstract personality should be independent of that of the sum of its members. The corporation sole cannot pass this test." Thus the fee simple is not vested in the abstract entity, but is declared to be in abeyance when the parson of a church dies; the corporation sole and its sole corporator are not regarded as two separate bodies in their dealings with one another; nor are there any instances in which a sole corporation has been sued by its sole corporator. "It is a fiction, but not fictitious enough for this."

The limits of this review forbid making many selections from Mr. Carr's book, but attention should be given to the excellent chapter, "The Corporation in the Courts." In this chapter, the author shows how by means of the doctrine of *ultra vires* results are reached which would not be reached at common law nor in equity; and in the section, "The Liability of a Corporation apart from Contracts," he demonstrates, after a careful collection of successive decisions, that an *ultra vires* act, though void, is none the less a corporate act; and he shows how gradually the principle of corporate liability has been extended to include "sins of commission."

To those who have not studied corporation law Mr. Carr's book would not be easy reading; but to those who have, it would repay the time that would be given it.

S. H. E. F.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY OF NEW YORK. From the beginning of the colonial period to the year 1905, showing the origin, development, and judicial construction of the Constitution. By Charles Z. Lincoln. In five volumes. Rochester: The Lawyers' Co-Operative Publishing Company. 1906. pp. xxx, 756; xvii, 725; xviii, 757; xxvi, 800; 551. 8vo.

The first impression of this book is the astounding industry of the author in his examination of forgotten sources of information as to the earlier forms of the constitution of the state of New York. Beginning with the colonial charters and coming down through each successive form of the constitution of the state and its amendments, the author has minutely examined the records of conventions and contemporary conditions so that the book does show, as to each successive form of each clause of the constitution, where it originated and how, and why it became embodied in the constitution. The several forms of the constitution and the constitutional conventions are treated chronologically, but by means of cross references a topical treatment has been successfully carried out, and for the purposes of reference by this book any particular clause of the constitution can be traced back, through its various forms.

The main value of the work lies in the completeness of its topical analyses and the presentation of original sources of information as to the separate clauses of the constitution and their meaning. No other book has done that for the constitution of New York, and the work is of permanent value as presenting an authoritative statement of the genesis and causes of each separate clause of the constitution. The collation of judicial decisions interpreting the constitution, which makes up one volume of the book, is not notable. The decisions have been collected before with the same fullness, and the author's comments are not particularly illuminating. Unique appendices, however, of the various statutes, arranged both chronologically and topically, which have been passed upon by the New York courts, and declared constitutional or unconstitutional, give the book an immediate and ready value for the practicing lawyer dealing with constitutional questions under the state constitution. How far those lists are complete only the use of the book can tell, but the tables are intelligently compiled and are bound to be valuable.

The style of the book perhaps unavoidably tends to dullness; the personal reflections are hardly illuminating; and the attempts of the author to connect